

he is approved for such an important spot for the United States.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The question is on the adoption of the concurrent resolution, as amended.

Mr. CONRAD. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 154 Leg.]

YEAS—55

Akaka	Hagan	Murray
Baucus	Harkin	Nelson (FL)
Begich	Inouye	Pryor
Bennet	Johnson	Reed
Bingaman	Kaufman	Reid
Boxer	Kennedy	Rockefeller
Brown	Kerry	Sanders
Burr	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Kohl	Shaheen
Cardin	Landrieu	Stabenow
Carper	Lautenberg	Tester
Casey	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Conrad	Levin	Udall (NM)
Dodd	Lieberman	Warner
Dorgan	Lincoln	Webb
Durbin	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Feingold	Menendez	Wyden
Feinstein	Merkley	
Gillibrand	Mikulski	

NAYS—43

Alexander	DeMint	McConnell
Barrasso	Ensign	Murkowski
Bayh	Enzi	Nelson (NE)
Bennett	Graham	Risch
Bond	Grassley	Roberts
Brownback	Gregg	Sessions
Bunning	Hatch	Shelby
Burr	Hutchison	Snowe
Chambliss	Inhofe	Specter
Coburn	Isakson	Thune
Cochran	Johanns	Vitter
Collins	Kyl	Voinovich
Corker	Lugar	Wicker
Cornyn	Martinez	
Crapo	McCain	

NOT VOTING—1

Byrd

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 13), as amended, was agreed to.

(The resolution will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. LEVIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. BEGICH). The Senator from Michigan.

NOMINATION OF ASHTON CARTER

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I had the intent, when we got to executive session, of asking unanimous consent that Calendar item No. 47, Ashton Carter's nomination, be agreed to by unanimous consent. There is a hold on this nomination. The two Senators who have that hold have indicated to me their reasons for it. One of those Senators—and I have talked to Senator SHELBY; there is no objection to my identifying

him this way—has not had the opportunity that he seeks to talk to Mr. CARTER. He has made a commitment that he will do so as quickly as he possibly can after the recess so we can hopefully get to this nomination very promptly. It is essential this be taken up.

So in light of the assurance I have received from Senator SHELBY particularly, and I have talked also to Senator SESSIONS about this matter, I am not going to make that unanimous consent request tonight.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF JANE HOLL LUTE

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, in a few minutes there will be a unanimous consent request on a voice vote for a nominee to the No. 2 position at Homeland Security—a very nice lady by the name of Ms. Lute.

I would make the point, as the second most senior member on Homeland Security on the minority side, I cast a “no” vote for this person in committee, and that is very well detailed in my statement.

But I think there are some important things the American people should know about her previous service in terms of the peacekeeping forces under her direction as far as the procurement, management, and followup.

Here is what we know. Forty-three percent of all the money spent on international peacekeeping at the United Nations was either involved in fraud or kickback schemes and illegal contracting.

The other thing we know is that the international peacekeepers raped and abused hundreds and hundreds of people, for which at this time today the services under the direction of Ms. Lute have not been directed toward or the care given for those individuals who suffered those consequences.

The other thing we know is that the contracting associated with her administration in the U.N. was associated with several no-bid contracts that were inefficiently done and ineffectively carried out. It is on that basis that I agreed not to hold up her nomination. She will go through, and she will be confirmed. But this nominee has to prove herself at the Department of Homeland Security. I am willing to be proven wrong, but the fact is, her reason for the problems she had at the U.N. was the lack of cooperation at the U.N. She is going to be running a much larger budget with greater responsibilities, and if, in fact, that is the case, and it was all the U.N., then her lim-

ited experience, we can hope, will grow, and she will be an effective Assistant Secretary.

There are other people much more qualified who could fill this position. As I said, this is a very humble lady. She has served with great distinguished service in the Armed Services of this country. There is no personal animosity nor direction toward her individually. But the fact is, one of our most difficult agencies is the Department of Homeland Security. It has big problems, conflicts, lack of transparency, and inefficiency.

It is my hope that after she is confirmed, she will, in fact, be up to the task, and we, both in the Senate and as American taxpayers, will get real value out of her service.

With that, I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider, en bloc, Calendar Nos. 37, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 58, 59, 60, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk; that the Agriculture Committee be discharged, and the Senate proceed, en bloc, to PN206, PN213 and PN221; that the nominations be confirmed, en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc, and that no further motions be in order.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

INTERNATIONAL BANKS

Timothy F. Geithner, of New York, to be United States Governor of the International Monetary Fund for a term of five years; United States Governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of five years; United States Governor of the Inter-American Development Bank for a term of five years; United States Governor of the African Development Bank for a term of five years; United States Governor of the Asian Development Bank; United States Governor of the African Development Fund; United States Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, vice Henry M. Paulson Jr., resigned.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Richard Rahul Verma, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs).

Esther Brimmer, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Organization Affairs).

Rose Eilene Gottemoeller, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Verification and Compliance).

Karl Winfrid Eikenberry, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Melanne Vermeer, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador at Large for Women's Global Issues.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

James N. Miller, Jr., of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

Alexander Vershbow, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Michael C. Gould

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Debra A. Scullary

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brigadier General Roger A. Binder
Brigadier General David L. Commons
Brigadier General Anita R. Gallentine
Brigadier General Carl M. Skinner
Brigadier General Howard N. Thompson
Brigadier General Paul M. Van Sickle

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Colonel William B. Binger
Colonel Catherine A. Chilton
Colonel James A. Firth
Colonel Robert M. Haire
Colonel Stayce D. Harris
Colonel Thomas P. Harwood, III
Colonel Maryanne Miller
Colonel Pamela K. Milligan
Colonel Robert K. Millmann, Jr.
Colonel James J. Muscatell, Jr.
Colonel Dennis P. Ployer
Colonel Kevin E. Pottinger
Colonel Derek P. Rydholm
Colonel George F. Williams

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 624 and 3064:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. James K. Gilman
Brig. Gen. Philip Volpe

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 624 and 3064:

To be brigadier general

Col. William B. Gamble
Col. Richard W. Thomas

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Paul W. Brier
Col. Frans J. Coetzee

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

John Berry, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Karen Gordon Mills, of Maine, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

[NEW REPORTS]

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

W. Scott Gould, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN94 AIR FORCE nomination of Kathy L. Fullerton, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 23, 2009.

PN95 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning EMIL B. KABBAN, and ending STEPHEN H. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 23, 2009.

PN96 AIR FORCE nominations (29) beginning BRIAN D. ANDERSON, and ending MARGARET M. WALSH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 23, 2009.

PN97 AIR FORCE nominations (21) beginning MARK T. ALLISON, and ending PHILIP T. WOLD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 23, 2009.

PN98 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning TINA M. BARBERMATTHEW, and ending REGAN J. PATRICK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 23, 2009.

PN99 AIR FORCE nominations (32) beginning JAMES J. BALDOCK IV, and ending BRENDA L. YI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 23, 2009.

PN100 AIR FORCE nominations (67) beginning LISA L. ADAMS, and ending RICHARD J. ZAVADIL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 23, 2009.

PN101 AIR FORCE nominations (1179) beginning ARIEL O. ACEBAL, and ending STEVEN M. ZUBOWICZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 23, 2009.

PN118 AIR FORCE nomination of Jonathon V. Lammers, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2009.

PN119 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning GARY A. FOSKEY, and ending CONNIE L. WARR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2009.

PN120 AIR FORCE nominations (7) beginning BRYSON D. BORG, and ending DEXTER W. LOVE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2009.

PN155 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning GEORGE B. GOSTING, and ending JOSEPH S. PARK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 10, 2009.

PN158 AIR FORCE nominations (51) beginning RICHARD D. BAKER, and ending GREGORY B. YORK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 10, 2009.

PN159 AIR FORCE nominations (15) beginning JEFFREY L. ANDRUS, and ending ROSE M. WOJCIK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 10, 2009.

PN160 AIR FORCE nominations (16) beginning FEDERICO C. AQUINO JR., and ending JUNKO YAMAMOTO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 10, 2009.

PN161 AIR FORCE nominations (148) beginning JOSELITA M. ABELEDA, and ending

GABRIEL ZIMMERER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 10, 2009.

PN162 AIR FORCE nominations (40) beginning THOMAS J. BAUER, and ending STACEY E. ZAIKOSKI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 10, 2009.

PN163 AIR FORCE nominations (286) beginning AMANDA J. ADAMS, and ending DON L. ZUST JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 10, 2009.

PN192 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning XAVIER A. NGUYEN, and ending JENNIFER A. TAY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2009.

PN193 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning JOHN M. BEENE II, and ending ELIZABETH N. SMITH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2009.

PN234 AIR FORCE nomination of Ryan G. McPherson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 25, 2009.

PN235 AIR FORCE nomination of Mark J. Ivey, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 25, 2009.

PN238 AIR FORCE nominations (37) beginning CHRISTOPHER B. BENNETT, and ending DAVID J. WESTERN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 25, 2009.

IN THE ARMY

PN102 ARMY nomination of Peter C. Gould, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 23, 2009.

PN103 ARMY nomination of Garrett S. Yee, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 23, 2009.

PN104 ARMY nominations (6) beginning ROY L. BOURNE, and ending STANLEY W. SHEFTALL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 23, 2009.

PN121 ARMY nomination of Frank Rodriguez Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2009.

PN122 ARMY nomination of Edward E. Turski, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2009.

PN123 ARMY nomination of Joseph R. Krupa, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2009.

PN124 ARMY nomination of Kathleen P. Naiman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2009.

PN125 ARMY nominations (2) beginning JUAN G. ESTEVA, and ending THOMAS E. STARR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2009.

PN126 ARMY nominations (2) beginning ROBERT F. DONNELLY, and ending ANGELICA REYES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2009.

PN127 ARMY nominations (3) beginning RICHARD H. DAHLMAN, and ending DAVID A. STILLIS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2009.

PN128 ARMY nominations (4) beginning JULIE S. AKIYAMA, and ending ANDREW L. HAGEMASTER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2009.

PN129 ARMY nominations (3) beginning MICHAEL L. NIPPERT, and ending JOHN K.

GOERTMILLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2009.

PN130 ARMY nominations (3) beginning MARTIN L. BADEGHIAN, and ending MARK J. HODD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2009.

PN131 ARMY nominations (5) beginning DEBRA H. BURTON, and ending LEE D. SCHNELL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2009.

PN132 ARMY nominations (10) beginning PAUL P. BRYANT, and ending CHRISTOPHER R. WARD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2009.

PN133 ARMY nominations (77) beginning ROBERT J. ABBOTT, and ending PATRICK J. WOOLSEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2009.

PN134 ARMY nominations (22) beginning VANESSA A. BERRY, and ending SCOTT F. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2009.

PN135 ARMY nominations (8) beginning EFREN E. RECTO, and ending WILLIAM A. WOLKSTEIN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2009.

PN136 ARMY nominations (14) beginning SUZANNE D. ADKINSON, and ending BRANDON S. WATKINS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2009.

PN156 ARMY nominations (7) beginning THOMAS M. CARDEN JR., and ending ANTHONY WOODS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 10, 2009.

PN194 ARMY nomination of Laura K. Lester, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2009.

PN195 ARMY nomination of Brigitte Belanger, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2009.

PN196 ARMY nomination of Mitzi A. Rivera, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2009.

PN197 ARMY nomination of Catherine B. Evans, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2009.

PN198 ARMY nomination of Victor G. Kelly, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2009.

PN199 ARMY nomination of Ryan T. Choate, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2009.

PN200 ARMY nominations (9) beginning RAFAEL A. CABRERA, and ending CARL J. TADAKI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2009.

PN201 ARMY nominations (43) beginning ROBERT A. BORCHERDING, and ending MICHAEL C. WONG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 17, 2009.

PN241 ARMY nomination of Victor J. Torres-Fernandez, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 25, 2009.

PN242 ARMY nominations (86) beginning JOSEPH ANGERER, and ending MATTHEW J. YANDURA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 25, 2009.

PN243 ARMY nominations (3) beginning TED R. BATES, and ending PETER M.

MENICUCCI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 25, 2009.

PN244 ARMY nominations (3) beginning JOHN M. DIAZ, and ending LAVORE L. RICHMOND JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 25, 2009.

PN245 ARMY nominations (2) beginning LUISA SANTIAGO, and ending YEUGENY S. VINDMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 25, 2009.

PN246 ARMY nominations (124) beginning RANDALL W. COWELL, and ending DANIEL M. ZERBY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 25, 2009.

PN247 ARMY nominations (16) beginning ALBERT J. ADKINSON, and ending WILLIAM E. WYNNS JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 25, 2009.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN112 MARINE CORPS nominations (5) beginning DAVID G. ANTONIK, and ending STEVEN D. PETERSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 23, 2009.

PN113 MARINE CORPS nominations (132) beginning KELLY P. ALEXANDER, and ending ANTHONY R. WRIGHT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 23, 2009.

PN137 MARINE CORPS nominations (773) beginning DEREK M. ABBEY, and ending ROBERT B. ZWAYER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2009.

PN138 MARINE CORPS nominations (464) beginning HARALD AAGAARD, and ending MARK W. ZIPSIE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 25, 2009.

IN THE NAVY

PN55 NAVY nomination of Scott D. Shiver, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 7, 2009.

PN107 NAVY nominations (2) beginning STEVEN A. KHALIL, and ending DAVID B. ROSENBERG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 23, 2009.

PN108 NAVY nomination of Miguel Gonzalez, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 23, 2009.

PN109 NAVY nomination of David M. Dromsky, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 23, 2009.

PN110 NAVY nomination of Jed R. Espiritu, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 23, 2009.

PN111 NAVY nominations (27) beginning CHARLES C. ADKISON, and ending TRICIA L. TEAS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 23, 2009.

PN164 NAVY nominations (2) beginning GREGORY G. GALYO, and ending OLIVER C. MINIMO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 10, 2009.

PN248 NAVY nominations (12) beginning CHRISTOPHER G. CUNNINGHAM, and ending CHRISTOPHER A. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 25, 2009.

PN249 NAVY nominations (3) beginning JANET L. JACKSON, and ending TODD M.

SULLIVAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 25, 2009.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

James W. Miller, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, vice Mark Everett Keenum, resigned.

Kathleen A. Merrigan, of Massachusetts, to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, vice Charles F. Conner, resigned.

Joe Leonard, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, vice Margo M. McKay, resigned.

NOMINATION OF KAREN GORDON MILLS

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship unanimously reported the President's nomination of Karen Gordon Mills to serve as Administrator for the Small Business Administration. I would like to thank my ranking member, Senator SNOWE, who recommended Ms. Mills for this post and her staff for their work on this nomination.

I am pleased that President Obama nominated Karen Mills. I believe she has the right mix of experience and education and a willingness to serve that will benefit her in this challenging position. As our new SBA Administrator, Ms. Mills will be an extraordinary role model for entrepreneurs across America—particularly for women entrepreneurs.

Ms. Mills graduated magna cum laude from Harvard with a degree in economics. She then stayed at Harvard to earn her MBA. She started out working as a product manager for General Mills and then segued into what was to become her true passion—growing new businesses. Ms. Mills is a founding partner and was managing director of Solera Capital, a NY-based venture capital firm run largely by women. She currently serves as President at MMP Group, Inc., a private equity investment and advising firm.

Ms. Mills has balanced her role in private, for-profit enterprises with active involvement in her community. This has been demonstrated in the work she has done in Maine, serving on the boards of many nonprofits that work to promote economic development. It also shows in the work that she has done for organizations like the Council on Foreign Relations.

From my meetings with Ms. Mills, it is clear that we share many of the same priorities—for example, assisting women and minority entrepreneurs and making sure small businesses can access credit in these trying economic times.

The SBA is an agency at a crossroads. Under the previous administration, the agency's funding was slashed by 28 percent—the biggest cut of any Federal agency. In my view, the agency was relegated to the back benches during important policy debates on health care, trade and technology innovation, to name a few.

We need strong, capable leadership to return this agency to its rightful place as a Federal advocate for small business interests. In Ms. Mills, I am confident that we have it.

NOMINATION OF JANE HOLL LUTE
TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF
HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 57, the nomination of Jane Holl Lute.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jane Holl Lute, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise to express my unqualified endorsement of Jane Holl Lute to be Deputy Secretary for the Department of Homeland Security.

Mrs. Lute has impressive educational credentials—including a Ph.D. from Stanford, a J.D. from Georgetown, and 3 years as a professor at West Point—an outstanding professional history, and broad national security and management experience, all of which is more than ample preparation for the position to which she has been nominated.

She had a distinguished career in the military, served as the European specialist at the National Security Council during the first Bush and Clinton administrations, and for the past several years has worked in various positions with United Nations Peacekeeping Operations.

Mrs. Lute joined the Army right out of college and spent the next 16 years serving in a variety of capacities, including as an action officer in Operation Desert Storm, U.S. Army Central Command, Riyadh; as company commander, U.S. Signal Command, a brigade signal officer; and as director for European affairs on the National Security Council for President George H.W. Bush and President Bill Clinton. Her military experience with signals intelligence and on the National Security Council has helped prepare her for the intelligence and counterterrorism missions of DHS.

Since 2003, she has served in a variety of senior leadership positions with the U.N., including as the Assistant Secretary-General of Peacekeeping Operations, and most recently as the Assistant Secretary General for Peacekeeping Support in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the U.N.

As Assistant Secretary-General, Mrs. Lute has managed a very large and complex Peacekeeping workforce, with responsibility for hundreds of thousands of military and civilian personnel in over 30 countries, including hotspots such as Kosovo, the Congo, and Darfur, to name just a few. This was no small accomplishment. Her leadership helped to ensure the security and welfare of people around the globe living in unaccommodating and hostile circumstances.

She also managed multibillion-dollar budgets and welcomed oversight and constructive criticism of her department, in an organization that many have described as “openly hostile” to such transparency.

At the U.N., she managed support operations for the second largest deployed military force in the world, and oversaw a multibillion budget, which grew from \$2 billion to nearly \$8 billion annually. She undertook a variety of initiatives to improve the management and financial accountability of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, which included instituting a requirements review panel for acquisitions and a mission startup monitoring process.

When she noticed that the U.N. was short on the procurement personnel with the language skills and expertise needed for the complex transactions they would work on, she helped institute a program to identify, recruit, and train additional staff.

She also instituted advanced training programs for senior administrative and management personnel, in response to deficiencies she observed.

I am particularly impressed by Mrs. Lute's leadership and management experience in a career dedicated to public service. In her testimony before the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee last week, it was apparent that her experiences have helped her develop into the leader she is today: One who recognizes that, in her own words, “people are the most important resource any . . . organization has.”

It is a testimony to Mrs. Lute and her work that the committee has received numerous letters supporting her nomination. Letters have come from the International Association of Emergency Managers, the National Emergency Managers Association, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Major Cities Chiefs, the National Sheriffs' Association, Lee Baca, the Sheriff of L.A. County, Lee Hamilton, former congressman and current President and Director, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, HRH Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al-Husseini, Jordan's Ambassador to the U.S., and many others.

Managing the Department of Homeland Security is no small task, demanding a smart and steady hand. The Deputy Secretary post carries with it diverse responsibilities that range from overseeing preparations to respond to a nuclear terrorist attack to ensuring that DHS employees have adequate office space.

DHS has at times struggled to gain solid footing over the course of its six-year lifespan. Each year it becomes stronger, I am happy to note. And I don't think there is any question that the country is safer as a result of the Department's efforts.

But the Department has a difficult and varied mission and its work is central to the security of all Americans. So we must continue to press forward to improve upon its capabilities.

To that end, I am working to draft the Senate's first authorization bill for the Department as a means of laying out what I believe should be its priorities

and to make the Department more efficient and effective in its missions. Needless to say, we will be seeking input from the administration.

One of the biggest problems the Department faces is its management of acquisitions. Some of the Department's largest and most troubled acquisition programs—Deepwater, SBINet, radiation detection portal monitors—need stronger oversight and more decisive leadership than they have gotten in the past.

Furthermore, the Department's heavy reliance on contractors to perform basic services raises serious questions about whether DHS is building sufficient internal capacity and institutional knowledge. Right now, DHS still has insufficient capacity to develop requirements and evaluate the technical feasibility of contractors' proposals.

In recent years the United States has seen serious threats to our cyber networks and we have not yet developed the tools to detect and defend against these threats. Due to the vulnerabilities that still exist, we have experienced massive identity theft, monetary loss, and leaks of sensitive information. Moreover, if these vulnerabilities are ever fully exploited, there is the potential to do significant damage to our Nation's critical infrastructure. The Department of Homeland Security has the important responsibility of leading Federal efforts to protect domestic cyber networks, both public and private. The Department has made some progress in developing its capabilities in this area, but much more work remains to be done. I look forward to working with Mrs. Lute to bolster the nation's cyber security.

Clearly, our southern border security has also become a central focus for the Department and the Obama administration. Senator COLLINS and I successfully amended the budget resolution this week to add \$550 million for the Departments of Homeland Security and Justice to help stem the flow of drugs and people moving north into the U.S. and guns and money moving south into Mexico. I look forward to a close collaboration with the Department in this area.

The Department faces many other challenges that must be met and conquered if it is to succeed in its ultimate mission of protecting the nation from terrorism and natural disasters. This committee has always worked cooperatively with the Department and will continue to do so to ensure its success.

If confirmed, Mrs. Lute will play a large part in setting the Department on course to overcome these challenges. I want to thank her for her many years of service and say that I believe she is exceptionally qualified to take on DHS' challenges. I urge my fellow Senators to support her confirmation.